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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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SOURCE Trud, No 284.HOUSING PROGRAM HIT

In accordance with the proposal made last year by Dimitrov to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, work is under way on construction of workers' dwellings. By decree of the Ministerial Council of 11 August 1949, the Labor Service was ordered to construct workers' dwellings in the Nadezhda and Gorna Banya quarters, as well as in Iskur, Kurilo, and Kazichene. Since the Bulgarian economy is unable to cope with the entire housing need, the party and the government have decided to build light, temporary structures until they can afford to build more substantial ones.

Some of the dwellings have already been turned over to the workers, others are in process of being occupied, and still others will be ready for occupancy the 9 September.

The decree of the Ministerial Council stipulated that these buildings should be finished by the end of last year. The delay was caused by an anarchistic element in the planning, lack of simplicity and foresight in the execution of the plans, and lack of centralization and responsible management. These general deficiencies again bring out the fact that our construction industry is sluggish and lacking in true socialistic adaptability.

Two methods of operation are to be seen in this project -- the old, slow, bureaucratic method, clearly exemplified by the Administration of Urban Construction under the People's Council of the Capital, and the quick, but still unsocialistic method of the Labor Service.

The investor in this project is the Capital Construction Section of the Ministry of Industry. The chiefs of this section, P. Terziev and Engineer Tanev, committed errors which resulted in the anarchistic element in the operation. The Ministry of Industry proved unable to cope with the construction work; Terziev and Tanev did not take steps to secure lots for the buildings or to insure prompt execution of the plans, especially in the case of sewage and plumbing, and the work is still being delayed on this account. The Administration of Urban Construction was encumbered by bureaucratic complications, so that the surveying was not properly completed in time for construction to begin, not to mention other failings.

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The buildings were planned by the Central Architectural Designing Section, which committed several architectural errors, such as their failure to provide setbacks in the buildings, clubhouses for meetings, etc.

Moreover, even these plans were not delivered on time to the builders, who in this case were the construction brigade of the Sofia Labor District; they received them 45 days late.

The construction brigade did not wait for the plans but began work on the excavations and foundations without them. This activity on their own initiative resulted in digging the sewer for the Iskur dwellings through the area intended for industrial construction. They laid out the site for the buildings without waiting for the Administration of Urban Construction and struck water at only 1.20 meters.

The dwellings built by the Narproiz and 23 December enterprises were also marked by poor quality. It must be noted, however, that even here the Labor Service displayed its fine discipline and high productivity.

In conclusion, the work of the Union for Interior Installations must be mentioned. They were not ready with the proper electric installations in Karilo, or with plumbing in Iskur. They also were obliged to wait for their plans.

Balkanski Pregled for June 1949 states that the 5-year national economic plan has arrived at the correct solution for the problem of housing construction. A capital investment of 19,160,000,000 leva is planned by the people's councils for that purpose. A large portion of this fund is destined for the construction of workers' dwellings. Also, 1,830,000,000 leva are intended for the people's councils to build dwelling units in Sofia and the larger cities, as well as homes for civil servants in the border areas and Dobrudzha. During the Five-Year Plan, the People's Council of the Capital will spend 550 million leva on housing construction, and about 2 billion leva will be spent jointly by the People's Council, the Ministry, and the housing construction enterprises in the capital.

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